

Prefrosh Arrive For Preview Weekend

By Jenny Zhang
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Campus Preview Weekend for the Class of 2010 kicked off yesterday, with campus tours, parent and student welcomes, and, of course, class lectures for high school students who were probably missing class to be here. Ben Jones, communications manager for the office of admissions, said 875 of the 1,474 students admitted, or 59 percent, registered for CPW, comparable to last year's percentage. 740 parents registered, up from 689 accompanying 864 students last year.

At the CPW Festival held in Johnson Athletics Center, prospective freshmen were encouraged to make their own t-shirts, watch a live martial arts demonstration, play putt-putt golf, knock each other off pedestals using padded poles, and join in on Dance-Dance-Revolution.

Brian Parott is visiting with his father, John. The prospective freshman said he attended a 9.00 (Introduction to Psychology) lecture, which he said was "really cool." He has not decided whether he will attend

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Weese Elected GSC President

By Gabriel Fouasnon
STAFF REPORTER

Eric G. Weese and Shan Wu were elected Graduate Student Council President and Vice President respectively on Wednesday, but no candidates were nominated to run for Secretary and Treasurer, so the positions remain unfilled. An emergency meeting will be held April 19 to elect officers to the vacant positions. The new officers will take their positions on May 3.

Both Weese and Wu ran uncontested, and were elected by white ballot.

Weese's written statement put heavy weight on the issue of NW35, a graduate dormitory planned to be built next to the graduate dormitory Sidney Pacific. In recent weeks, students and administrators had been at odds about input on the design and rent rates of the dormitory. Weese said yesterday, "We're very pleased with the progress we've made over the past week. We think it's a very good program for moving forward." Weese said that the

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Hackers Have Blast With Caltech Cannon

By Marissa Vogt
NEWS EDITOR

One year after pranksters from the California Institute of Technology infiltrated the MIT campus during Campus Preview Weekend, the Fleming House cannon, a familiar Caltech landmark, appeared in front of the Green Building early Wednesday morning to usher in the arrival of this year's CPW.

A press release on the Web site <http://www.mitcannon.com>, which went online shortly after the cannon appeared, announced that "Howe & Ser Moving Company has completed its latest job: moving a Spanish-American War cannon from the pits of Pasadena, CA to sunny Cambridge, MA."

The cannon was adorned with a 24 karat gold-plated brass rat, which weighs 21 pounds and took about 1,000 manhours to machine, said an individual calling himself Tim Howe, a representative of the hackers responsible for moving the cannon. Howe said that the ring is placed as if the cannon has not yet graduated, and while the year on the brass rat is 2006, the ring is an original design for the hack.

Crowds of students and prefrosh gathered in McDermott court throughout the day to admire the hack, and much of the conversation included speculation of how the cannon, which



BRIAN HEMOND—THE TECH

A bevy of bikini babes from East Campus gather around the California Institute of Technology Fleming Cannon on Thursday afternoon, with the intention of producing photographs for founding the Web site College Cannon Coeds, which can be found at <http://www.collegecannoncoeds.com/>. See page 11 for more photos.

weighs 1.7 tons, found its way to MIT. While Howe called his exact methods a "trade secret," he said that 26 people were involved, all associated with MIT, and ten people traveled to California. An intense planning effort for

the hack began in December, and the hack was funded by those individuals and anonymous donations, he said.

At Caltech, the cannon's disappearance has been received in good humor by both administrators and students,

at least now that they know it was done as a hack (or a prank, as hacks are called at Caltech). The cannon was taken from Caltech at 5:30 a.m.

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Police Say Ex-Sophomore Had Child Pornography

By Keith J. Winstein
SENIOR EDITOR

A former MIT student was charged yesterday with possession of child pornography on his Next House dormitory-room computer, Massachusetts authorities said.

The former student, Debashish Sircar, 19 years old, was registered as a sophomore last fall, when he served as an associate advisor for Next House freshmen. He is not currently enrolled or living on campus, said Denise Brehm, an MIT spokeswoman.

The police became interested in Sircar as part of an investigation into peer-to-peer file-sharing of pornographic images over the Internet, the attorney general's office said.

At some time in the past several months, police executed a search

warrant at Next House and found child pornography on Sircar's computer, according Terence Burke, a spokesman for the attorney general.

Sircar will be arraigned on two counts of possession of child pornography at the Cambridge District Court on April 28, Burke said. The crime is punishable by up to five years in state prison. Sircar is not charged with producing illegal images or distributing them.

The police also announced charges against five other Massachusetts men yesterday, for allegedly possessing, and in some cases intending to distribute, child pornography that had been traded in Internet chat rooms or with peer-to-peer file sharing software.

Telephone calls to Sircar's home in Bronx, N.Y., were not returned.

Institute Screw Contest Begins

By Marissa Vogt
NEWS EDITOR

The annual Institute screw contest, sponsored by the service fraternity Alpha Phi Omega, began Wednesday in the Student Center. Commonly referred to as the "Big Screw," the award is given to the faculty or staff member who students feel has screwed them over most.

Members of the MIT community can cast one-cent votes throughout the week. Each nominee selects a charity, and all of the money collected

is donated to the winner's charity. Additionally, the winner's name is engraved on a "left-handed, four-foot aluminum wood screw" and he or she is given the screw for safekeeping during the year, said APO Service Vice President Vladimir S. Tarasov '08.

Professor Stephen C. Graves, nominated for his role in the MIT Committee for Community, was leading the contest with \$163.00 at the close

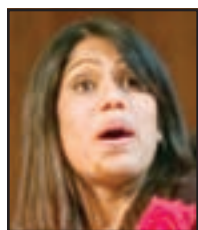
Screw, Page 13



CHRISTINA KANG—THE TECH

At the Campus Preview Weekend Student Welcome held in Rockwell Cage on Thursday, April 6, prospective freshmen watch the MIT bloggers present the top reasons why they should choose MIT. Items on the list included "beaver," hacks, and number one: "the people all around you."

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Chorallaries win the New England a cappella semifinals.

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Hackers create new amusing sights for campus preview weekend.

NEWS

The Government Accountability Office is being accused of covering up fraud in the building of an anti-nuclear attack system.

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WORLD & NATION

Congo Holds Two Activists Who Assailed Oil Deals

By John Donnelly THE BOSTON GLOBE PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA

Republic of Congo authorities Thursday arrested two activists — who had sharply criticized the country’s oil deals as corrupt — for allegedly stealing money from their nonprofit organizations, according to Global Witness, a London-based group that has called on African countries to be more transparent in their oil contracts.

Christian Mounzeo, president of Rencontre pour la Paix et les Droits de l’Homme, and Brice Mackosso of the Catholic Justice and Peace Commission, were being held in jail and at first were denied access to a lawyer, according to Sarah Wykes, a Global Witness researcher. She said that attorney Maitre Senga eventually was allowed to see Mounzeo and Mackosso.

Senga could not be reached for comment last night. Two senior Congolese officials also could not be reached by telephone.

Late last year, the World Bank delayed Congo’s application for debt relief because of what it called irregularities in Brazzaville’s oil contracts, including the existence of numerous private companies controlled by government officials who sold the country’s oil by using a maze of transactions.

Britain and Ireland Give Deadline To Form Ulster Government

By Brian Lavery THE NEW YORK TIMES DUBLIN, IRELAND

Prime ministers Tony Blair of Britain and Bertie Ahern of Ireland on Thursday gave Northern Ireland’s rival Protestant and Roman Catholic parties until this fall to work out their differences on their stalled provincial government. Otherwise, the prime ministers said, they would abandon the Belfast legislative assembly and find a new way to govern the British province.

In a joint statement, Blair and Ahern laid out plans to call together the elected officials to Northern Ireland’s mothballed legislature on May 15, in the hope that the officials can agree on appointing ministers to an executive branch. If the ministers are not appointed by Nov. 24, the British and Irish governments will take over running the province.

“Be in no doubt, at the conclusion of this period, we either resolve to go forward on the basis of mature democracy, or we call time on this and seek another way to go,” Blair said, speaking in Armagh. “Stasis is not an option.”

FDA to Intensify Oversight of Heart Devices on Market

By Barry Meier THE NEW YORK TIMES

The Food and Drug Administration plans to strengthen how it monitors critical heart devices like defibrillators by appointing outside medical experts to help it review the safety of units already on the market, a top agency official says.

The move would be the first time the FDA would have outside experts regularly advising it about the safety of medical devices being sold, said Dr. Daniel G. Schultz, director of the agency’s Center for Devices and Radiological Health. Traditionally, the FDA has used its advisory panels to help it decide whether to permit the sale of a new device.

The agency’s decision comes as a medical group that represents doctors who implant devices prepares to release a report recommending changes in how data about heart units are collected and disclosed. Among other proposals, the group, the Heart Rhythm Society, may urge manufacturers to establish an outside panel to review product safety and help companies decide when to issue alerts, people involved in the group said.

Sen. Republicans Negotiate Compromise On Immigration

By Rachel L. Swarns THE NEW YORK TIMES WASHINGTON

A group of Senate Republicans reached agreement on Wednesday night on a compromise proposal that they hope can garner bipartisan support and bring passage of a bill on the future of the nation’s 11 million illegal immigrants.

The compromise, which followed a day of negotiations, was endorsed by Sen. Bill Frist of Tennessee, the majority leader. But it did not have the commitment of all Republicans, much less Democrats who have backed an approach that would guarantee nearly all illegal immigrants a path toward citizenship.

As outlined by Senate Republicans late Wednesday, the compromise would place illegal immigrants in three categories:

— Those who have lived in the country at least five years would be put on a path toward guaranteed citizenship, provided that they remained employed, paid fines and back taxes, and learned English, a senior Republican aide said. The aide said this group accounted for about 7 million of the roughly 11 million illegal im-

migrants believed to be living here.

— Those who have lived here for two to five years, said to number about three million, would have to leave the country briefly before reporting to a U.S. port of entry, where they would be classified as temporary workers. They would be allowed to apply for citizenship but would have no guarantee of obtaining it. Those who did not would have to leave after participating in the temporary worker program for six years.

— The remaining 1 million or so, those who have lived in the country less than two years, would be required to leave. They could apply for temporary worker status but would not be guaranteed it.

Senators of both parties and their aides huddled in meetings throughout the day, trying to hash out a deal by week’s end, the deadline set by Frist for a vote on an immigration bill. For the first time, senior Democrats, including Sens. Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts and Richard J. Durbin of Illinois, joined in the negotiations, an acknowledgment that they lacked the backing to get a vote on broader

legalization.

The Senate will decide Friday whether the compromise should be considered for a vote. But lawmakers, who gave impassioned partisan speeches on the floor, remained deadlocked over its details late Wednesday. Senators warned that if the negotiations collapsed, Congress might fail to take action this year on an issue that has riveted the nation and pushed tens of thousands of immigrants and their supporters into the streets for rallies across the country.

Frist blamed the stalemate on Democrats, who refused to allow Republicans to vote on major amendments and have used a parliamentary tactic that will force lawmakers to decide Thursday whether the bill more favorable to illegal immigrants should be considered for a floor vote.

Sen. Harry Reid of Nevada, the minority leader, blamed the Republicans, saying they had continued to “stonewall” by seeking to pass amendments that would gut the broad legalization bill, approved by the Judiciary Committee last week with bipartisan support.

Libby Testifies Bush Authorized Declassification of Iraq Report

By David Johnston and David E. Sanger THE NEW YORK TIMES WASHINGTON

Vice President Dick Cheney’s former chief of staff testified that he was authorized by President Bush, through Cheney, in July 2003 to disclose key portions of what until then was a classified prewar intelligence estimate on Iraq, according to a new court filing.

The testimony by the former official, I. Lewis Libby Jr., cited in a court filing by the government made late Wednesday, provides the first indication that Bush, who has long assailed leaks of secret information as a threat to national security, may have played a direct role in authorizing the disclosure of the intelligence report on Iraq. The disclosure occurred at a moment when the White House was trying to defend itself against charges

that it had inflated the case against Saddam Hussein.

The president has the authority to declassify information, and Libby indicated in his grand jury testimony that he believed Bush’s instructions — which prosecutors said Libby regarded as “unique in his recollection” — gave him legal cover to talk with a reporter about the intelligence. Among the key judgments in the report, called a National Intelligence Estimate, was that Saddam Hussein was probably seeking fuel for nuclear weapons.

Libby did not assert in his testimony, first reported on the Web site of The New York Sun, that Bush or Cheney had authorized him to reveal the name of an undercover CIA officer, Valerie Wilson. Libby is scheduled to go on trial next year on perjury and obstruction charges connected to the disclosure of Wilson’s

name.

The White House refused to discuss Libby’s account, or say whether it differed with Bush or Cheney’s recollections of events, which the two men described in interviews with prosecutors. “We’re not commenting on an ongoing legal proceeding,” said Scott McClellan, Bush’s press secretary.

Democrats seized on the disclosure, and demanded that Bush — who has said he was determined to get to the bottom of the leak case — now disclose his role. “In light of today’s shocking revelation, President Bush must fully disclose his participation in the selective leaking of classified information,” said the Democratic leader, Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev. Rep. Jane Harman, D-Calif., the senior Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee, said: “If the disclosure is true, it’s breathtaking. The president is revealed as the leaker in chief.”

WEATHER

Softball Season

By Brian H. Tang STAFF METEOROLOGIST

That stinging feeling of sleet pelting you like shards of glass during some of our winter storms in Boston can’t compare to the damage inflicted by softball-sized hailstones. Midwestern cities must deal with this every April and May when severe weather outbreaks are common. Unlike last year’s quiescence, two severe weather outbreaks this year have already caused substantial damage and taken dozens of lives. Yesterday’s tumultuous weather will shift towards the southeast into Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, and Tennessee, bringing the threat of widespread tornadoes, winds greater than 70 mph, and damaging hail. Severe weather is not uncommon in Boston during the latter half of the summer, but our thunderstorms are usually not comparable in intensity to ones witnessed in the Midwest.

Meanwhile, the same storm system responsible for the severe weather in the Midwest and Deep South will also impact us this afternoon. A warm front will approach the area from the south bringing plenty of clouds and afternoon rain. A cold front then swings through early Saturday, but gets hung up just to our south. Taking an optimist’s view, the front should clear through our area leaving us with a fairly nice Saturday. If your Saturday plans take you out to the Cape or South Coast, there will be more clouds and a greater risk of showers. Sun will be plentiful on Sunday.

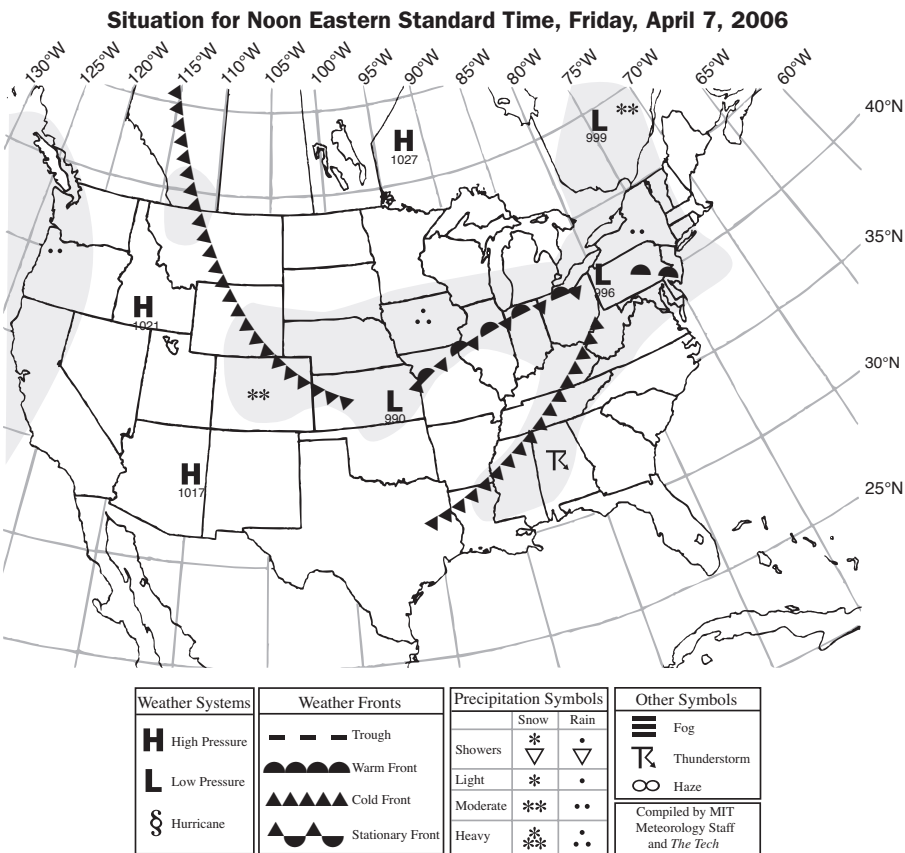
Extended Forecast

Today: Cloudy with rain in the afternoon. Breezy SW winds. High 57°F (14°C).

Tonight: Rain ending and clearing overnight. Low 42°F (6°C).

Tomorrow: Scattered clouds. High 50°F (10°C).

Sunday: Mostly sunny. High 52°F (11°C). Low 34°F (1°C).



McCormack: U.S. Not Candidate For U.N. Human Rights Council

By Warren Hoge
THE NEW YORK TIMES

UNITED NATIONS

The United States said Thursday it would not be a candidate for the new U.N. Human Rights Council, which was approved last month by the General Assembly with Washington nearly alone in opposition.

Sean McCormack, the State Department spokesman, said that the United States would sit out the first election for the council in May but would support other countries with strong rights records and would be likely to run for a seat a year from now.

The council, which will hold its first meeting in Geneva in June, replaces the human rights commission, which had been widely discredited

for allowing notorious rights abusers like Sudan and Zimbabwe on the panel.

The election of the 47 new members is scheduled for May 9, and as of Thursday, 40 countries, including China, Cuba and Iran, had formally signed up to run.

Thursday's announcement by the State Department followed weeks of intense consultations throughout the government that appeared to many U.N. officials to be preparing the ground for American participation on the panel. A number of members of Congress, including some of the United Nations' harshest Republican critics, had joined rights groups in lobbying the Bush administration to make the United States a candidate.

Although it voted against the council last month, saying that the new membership requirements still would not do enough to keep major rights violators out, the United States had signaled its desire to be cooperative, agreeing to the funding of the new panel and pledging to support it.

"This is a major retrenchment in America's long struggle to advance the cause of human rights around the world and it is a profound signal of U.S. isolation at a time when we need to work cooperatively with our Security Council partners," said Rep. Tom Lantos of California, the leading Democrat on the House International Relations Committee and founding co-chairman of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus.

Gonzales Asserts That Bush May Have Legal Authority for Wiretaps

By Eric Lichtblau
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales suggested for the first time on Thursday that the president might have the legal authority to order wiretapping without a warrant on communications between Americans that occur exclusively within the United States.

"I'm not going to rule it out," Gonzales said when asked about that possibility at a House Judiciary Committee hearing.

The attorney general made his comments, which critics said reflected a broadened view of the president's authority, as President Bush offered another strong defense of his deci-

sion to authorize the National Security Agency to eavesdrop without warrants on international calls and e-mail messages to or from the United States.

Bush, in an appearance in North Carolina, told a questioner who attacked the program that he would "absolutely not" apologize for authorizing it.

"You can come to whatever conclusion you want" about the merits of the program, Bush said. "The conclusion is I'm not going to apologize for what I did on the terrorist surveillance program."

At the House hearing, Gonzales faced tough questioning from Democrats and Republicans but declined to discuss many operational details.

Rep. F. James Sensenbrenner Jr., the Wisconsin Republican who is chairman of the Judiciary Committee and one of the administration's staunchest allies, accused the administration of "stonewalling."

"Mr. Attorney General, how can we discharge our oversight responsibilities if every time we ask a pointed question, we're told that the answer is classified?" Sensenbrenner asked. "Congress has an inherent constitutional responsibility to do oversight. We are attempting to discharge those responsibilities."

The House and Senate have conducted limited inquiries into the surveillance program, which many Democrats contend is illegal.

Bird Flu Found in a Dead Swan in Scotland

By Sarah Lyall
THE NEW YORK TIMES

LONDON

A swan found dead in eastern Scotland has tested positive for the deadly strain of bird flu, government officials said, making it the first recorded case of the disease in a wild bird in Britain.

The bird, believed to be a native mute swan, was discovered eight days ago in the harbor at Cellardyke, a small coastal town in Fife, northeast of Edinburgh. Officials have established a 1.8-mile protection zone around the spot where it was found to prevent the movement of poultry in and out of the area.

Officials hastened to emphasize that although the swan had died from the virulent A(H5N1) strain of flu, there was no immediate danger to humans and no danger, at least yet, to the poultry supply. Although more than 100 people have died in other countries from bird flu, which is extremely deadly when passed on to humans, the victims had worked in close contact with birds or handled birds that had died from the flu.

Bird flu has been gradually making its way across Europe from Asia, where it first emerged. It has stricken birds in Germany, France, Denmark, Italy, Poland, Switzerland and Greece, but until now had not been reported in Britain. But Britain has been bracing itself. COBRA, the government's emergency planning group, met Thursday morning in London with officials from the environment and health departments, the Scottish executive and the prime minister's office to map out government contingency plans.

Russia's Gazprom and Armenia Reach Gas Deal

By Andrew E. Kramer
THE NEW YORK TIMES


MOSCOW

In a settlement of the latest natural gas dispute in the former Soviet Union, Armenia will receive natural gas supplies from Russia at prices well below European averages until 2009. In exchange, it will surrender a small but crucial section of gas pipeline to Russia.

Armenia will pay \$110 for each 1,000 cubic meters of gas, about half the European average but twice what the country pays now, the Russian monopoly Gazprom said in a statement on Thursday.

Gazprom in turn will buy a 24-mile section of pipe connecting Armenia to Iran, which other than Russia is the only plausible source of energy supplies in the region. Also under the deal Gazprom, through a joint venture, was granted a concession to build a larger second pipeline along this route.

In financial terms, the deal is considered small by the usual standards of the huge Gazprom, but it could have strategic importance as the company seeks to maintain its dominance in Eurasian natural gas trading. The gas sales will bring about \$187 million annually. The pipeline route from Iran through Armenia that Gazprom now controls with its 24-mile section was sometimes discussed by energy analysts as a possible export corridor for Iranian gas to Europe.



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OPINION

Pottery Barn Foreign Policy

Josh Levinger

Less than a year ago, Vice President Cheney remarked that the Iraqi insurgency was in its “last throes.” In the intervening months, the conflict there has transformed from mere random violence to the brink of a full-blown civil war. What happens when Iraq passes the tipping point? Whose side will we take in the impending conflict? Or will we “cut and run,” leaving a bigger mess than we found?

The trigger for the escalated violence was the bombing of the Shiite shrine at Samarra on February 22. This attack, presumably carried out by Sunnis trying to foment sectarian violence, lead to days of protests and riots that killed over 200 civilians. Reprisal killings of journalists, professionals, and government officials have claimed at least 1,000 in the last two months. These are throes all right, but far from the last.

A generally accepted social science definition of civil war is: “Sustained military combat, primarily internal, resulting in at least 1,000 battle-deaths per year, pitting central government forces against an insurgent force capable of effective resistance . . .” (Henderson and Singer, “Civil War in the Post-Colonial World, 1946-92,” Journal of Peace Research, May 2000). The situation in Iraq fits every clause of this definition. While there are foreign fighters, the majority of the violence is perpetrated by Iraqis against Iraqis. We cannot blame this violence on Iran, or Syria, or al-Qaeda, but only on ourselves. Prime Minister Iyad Allawi notes that “We are losing each day an average 50 to 60 people throughout the country, if not more.” This is significantly over the baseline rate of about 30 Iraqi military casualties per day during 2004 (Department of Defense, “Measuring Stability and Security in Iraq,” 17 February 2006, p.27). The insurgent force is clearly capable of offensive actions against the government, and they have infiltrated the Iraqi security apparatus so thoroughly that they are often aware of American counter-attacks as soon as the order is issued to move.

Why is the Bush administration trying so hard to maintain the aura of control over this rap-

idly disintegrating situation? Because the moment it becomes clear that it indeed is a civil war, our mission to promote democracy becomes null and void. When democracy fails to take root, and protracted sectarian violence takes hold, American and allied public support for a winnable war will plummet. We did not sign up for the mission of spending blood and treasure to fight a civil war.

Sadly, because we started this conflagration, we bear the responsibility for what happens when, not if, we leave. While a permanent American presence in Iraq is being built and planned, our long-term goal is not to patrol the streets. A friendly Iraq was supposed to be a check against Iran and a beacon of liberty in a region darkened by autocracy. An Iraq mired in civil war doesn’t exactly inspire confidence in the American way.

Former Secretary of State Colin Powell stated this dilemma as the “Pottery Barn Rule”: You break it, you buy it. We certainly broke this vase, but do we have the skill or resources to fix it? In the coming Iraqi civil war, whose side will we be on? We have placed our faith so far in the Shia, but do we dare trust the young rebel cleric Moqtada al-Sadr? His Mahdi Army was responsible for the uprisings of August 2004 and our subsequent siege of Fallujah. Or perhaps the ruling Sciri party (Supreme Council of Islamic Revolution In Iraq), which was founded in the intellectual heritage of Ayatollah Khomeini, the leader of the Iranian Islamic Revolution of 1979. This is the party of the current Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari, who is currently being forced out by Secretary of State Condoleeza Rice. Under his leadership, the Parliament has failed to form a government for the last three months. Remember that election in January? They still haven’t

actually formed a coalition. We could back the Kurds, who we helped save from Saddam with our Northern No-Fly Zone during the inter-war containment. But they are now self sufficient, with their own private army, the Pershmerga. If they can control Kirkuk, and its oil wealth, they have no need for a united Federal Iraq. An independent Kurdistan would infuriate the Turks, who continue to repress their eastern Kurdish minority.

Clearly none of our allies is a convincing champion of democracy; we have no horse to back in this race. Even if you’re not up on your

Iraqi politics, there’s no denying that the situation looks abysmal. Every ethnic group has its own agenda, and none entirely friendly to the United States. Even if we were to choose a side, no one wants to be on ours.

As Iraq slowly crumbles, we will continue to pass the buck. In the eyes of the Bush administration, it’s Iraq’s own

fault they couldn’t create a modern society out of the wreckage Saddam left. Never mind that we never gave them the security or the support they needed, or that the one crucial decision of disbanding the Iraqi army essentially created the insurgency.

Leaving Iraq in a civil war will have profound repercussions in the region, none of them good. Iran may exert its influence more directly, creating another state ruled by Sharia. Turkey may invade to stop the creation of a Kurdish state. And Israel won’t be happy about yet another unfriendly pocket of violence in their neighborhood.

We have failed the Iraqi people. When we pull out and leave them with a country in pieces, perhaps even worse than before the our ill-planned invasion, we will have only ourselves to blame.

A friendly Iraq was supposed to be a check against Iran and a beacon of liberty in a region darkened by autocracy. An Iraq mired in civil war doesn’t exactly inspire confidence in the American way.

A Chaste Choice

able to you.

Now, before going into some of the benefits of a chaste lifestyle, some of you may be tempted to think this a sermon of sorts or a condemnation or judgment of people who choose to live a promiscuous lifestyle. “What does this little prude think he knows about sex?” or “Who does he think he is to judge me like that?” you might ask. It might interest you to know that if I were condemning you, then I would also be condemning myself. I lost my virginity at the age of 16, and I’m most certainly not proud of that decision, but I must live with it. Therefore, when I make claims about this lifestyle, I’m speaking from experience, not just as an observer.

Sex in its proper context, marriage, is a wonderful and amazing thing. It’s the deepest expression of erotic love of which the human body is capable, and it allows two people to bring human life into the world. This fact makes having sex a unique and special experience, yet today it is rarely viewed this way. Think about one of the most common terms for a condom (“Did you use ‘protection’?”) It’s sounds like two people who share the most intimate experience must protect themselves from each other, not a very romantic thought. A common scare

for young couples is pregnancy, an event that’s cause for great joy, not fear. However, sex outside its context once again turns something that should be a wonderful experience into something that breeds fear and anxiety. Yet another side effect is the mistrust that so often comes with the thought “If he/she was willing to ‘hook up’ with me when they barely knew me, what’s to stop them from ‘hooking up’ with someone else?”

All that, however, still deal with the subject of abstinence. So what of chastity? Well, the problem with stopping at abstinence is that it’s our nature to want to try and push our limits. We’ll say, “OK, no sex till marriage, but X, Y, and Z is all fair game.” And so we start to share sexually intimate experiences under the justification “well, at least we’re not having sex.” It’s the same as saying, “How close can I get us to this blazing fire without getting burned?” Knowing the dangers of a sexually promiscuous lifestyle, we should seek to keep ourselves and those we love far from it.

When you get married, you are making a commitment to love each other faithfully for the rest of your lives, but that love can start right now. So what if you’ve already made mistakes and don’t have any more intimate experiences to share solely with your spouse? You can still show your love to your future life partner by starting to live differently today.

Joel Fernandez is a member of the class of 2006, and also a member of the Anscombe Society.

Joel Fernandez

These days, it seems sex is a regular part of life for many college students. It doesn’t take a genius to understand where all the free condoms are going. As college students, we are expected to inevitably engage in promiscuous behavior because we are incapable of exercising self control. What are the consequences? We have broken relationships, broken hearts, used and disrespected people, and loneliness. One must ask, is there a better way? Is there better way that one can have the joys and thrills of romance, without the heartache and regrets that inevitably accompany sexual promiscuity?

That better way is chastity. “Chastity-what?!?” you might ask. That’s probably the reaction a lot of us have to hearing the word, but the truth is, more and more college students are finding the benefits of such a lifestyle. Let’s first clarify that it is NOT merely abstinence. Abstinence is simply refraining from sexual intercourse; it’s about what you’re not doing. Chastity on the other hand, is about what you ARE doing. Chastity is about protecting the dignity and self-worth of the person you love in every way avail-

Sex outside its context once again turns something that should be a wonderful experience into something that breeds fear and anxiety.

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ARTS

FILM REVIEW ★★½

As Spring Arrives, So Does ‘Ice Age: The Meltdown’

Hilarious Animated Comedy Boasts Famous Voices, Family-Friendly Story

By Hendrata Dharmawan
STAFF WRITER

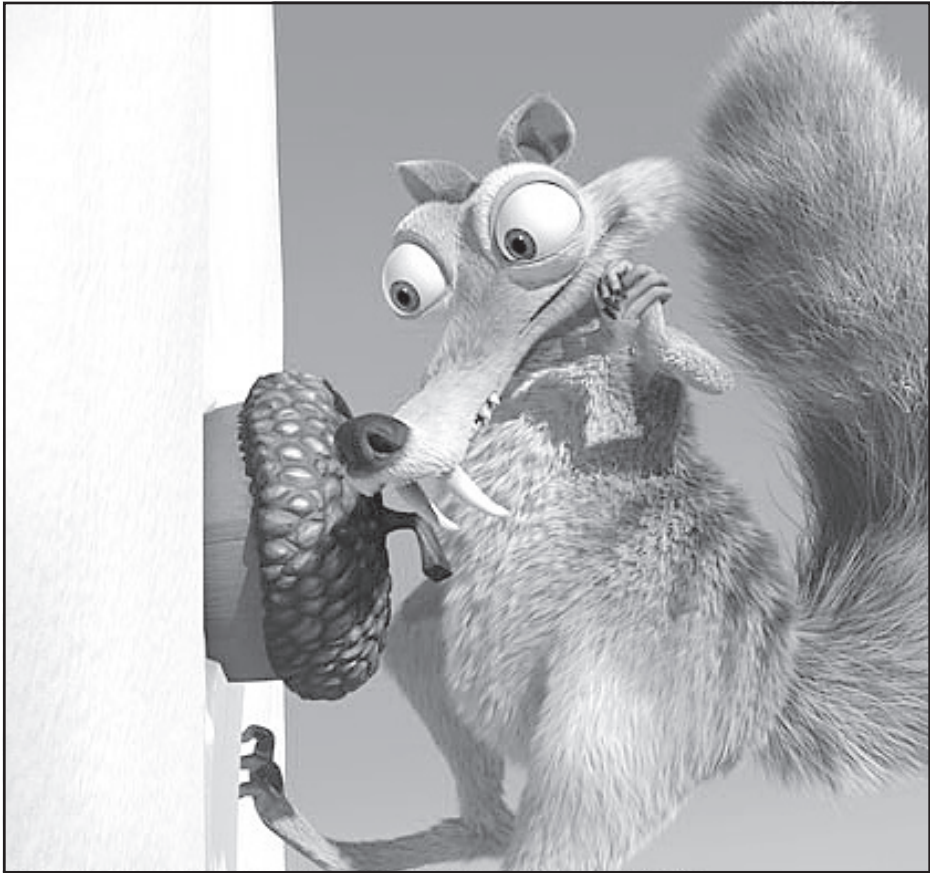
Ice Age: The Meltdown
Directed by Carlos Saldanha
Written by Peter Gaulke, Gerry Swallow
Starring Ray Romano, John Leguizamo, Denis Leary, Queen Latifah, Jay Leno
Rated PG
Now Playing

Ice Age: The Meltdown” is a feature-length animated sequel to “Ice Age” (2002), with many returning characters: Manny the woolly mammoth, Sid the sloth, Diego the saber-toothed tiger, and the hapless acorn-hoarding squirrel Scrat. There are also some new central characters, such as a female mammoth named Ellie (Queen Latifah) and her two “brothers,” possums Crash and Eddie.

The movie begins where the first film left off; the animals have found a warmer paradise and discovered that the ice age is coming to an end. While everyone else is enjoying the warmer climate, Manny, Sid, and Diego discover that the rising temperature creates one problem: a huge glacial dam is about to break, putting the entire valley at risk. The only chance of survival lies at the valley’s other end, so our three heroes, along with Ellie, Crash, and Eddie, embark on another dangerous journey.

More appealing for the younger audience, “Meltdown” has a straightforward plot that essentially consists of one long journey filled with peril. Although the story is simple, it is enlivened by cleverly designed dangers that come one-by-one from unexpected sources. As in the first film, there is a seemingly unrelated side story about Scrat trying to get hold of that elusive acorn. This humorous side story, however, turns out to be central to the plot.

Unlike recent animated features that dabble in pop culture, this film doesn’t require viewers to be hip to get a good laugh. The humor mainly comes from animal silliness, especially expressed by Sid and Scrat. There is also a little romance (because Hollywood can’t do without it), but instead of showing a humanistic drama



BLUE SKY STUDIOS

Scrat struggles to save his prized acorn from frozen captivity in “Ice Age: The Meltdown.”

set in animal world, this movie ends up being mostly about animals trying to survive.

Compared to its predecessor, the visual elements of “Meltdown” are somewhat lacking. The underwater scenes resemble the cartoon-like environments of “Shark Tale” rather than the lush, pastel-like photorealism of “Finding Nemo.” The rock and ice textures look artificial, and even some of the physics simulations (flying and falling objects, water and tidal waves, etc.) are unconvincing. Fur and wind, however, were very well done, and reminded

me of Sully’s beautiful coat in “Monsters Inc.” The facial animations of the animals, tediously key-framed by hand, convey emotions effectively.

While “Meltdown” lacks quality in many areas, it accomplishes one goal with ease: entertainment. Despite the second-class graphics and predictable plot, the movie is filled with creative humor. It’s a family film that avoids the burden of complicated plot elements. If only it had come out before spring break was almost over!

FILM REVIEW ★★½

‘Lucky Number Slevin’ Stacks the Odds

All-Star Cast Makes Dark Comedy an Entertaining Hit

By Yong-yi Zhu
STAFF WRITER

Directed by Paul McGuigan
Written by James Smilovic
Starring Josh Hartnett, Bruce Willis,
Morgan Freeman, Ben Kingsley,
Lucy Liu, Stanley Tucci
Rated R
Opens Today

A boss, a rabbi, a man in a purple-flowered towel, a cop, a neighbor, an assassin, and a missing friend: sounds like a recipe for total disaster. Yet somehow, this group of misfits comes together in one of the most brilliant films of the year. Director Paul McGuigan pieces together the stories of all those characters to make a dark comedy about a man who just happens to be in the wrong place at the wrong time — all the time.

Josh Hartnett is Slevin, a young man who just got fired, kicked out of his apartment after finding his girlfriend in bed with another man, and mugged while trying to get to his friend Nick (Sam Jaeger)’s apartment. Nick isn’t even there when he arrives, but that doesn’t faze Slevin, after everything else he’s dealt with that day. Slevin’s misfortune only increases when two rival groups of thugs, led by the Boss (Morgan Freeman) and the Rabbi (Sir Ben Kingsley), come after him because they’ve mistaken him for Nick, who’s accumulated major gambling debts.

First, Slevin meets the Boss, who tells him that instead of paying the money Nick owes, Slevin only needs to avenge the death of Boss’s son by killing the Rabbi’s. However, Slevin then goes to the Rabbi and finds out that if he does not provide the gambling money, he will be terminated. Slevin has two days to do everything — or else. The plot may not sound overly exciting, but this star-studded cast truly brings the movie to life.

Hartnett may be a one-dimensional actor,



WEINSTEIN COMPANY

Perky neighbor Lindsey (Lucy Liu) consoles the unfortunate Slevin (Josh Hartnett) in “Lucky Number Slevin.”

always exhibiting a kind and somewhat idiotic predisposition in his movies, but this act is perfect for this movie. He plays the part of the confused and helpless Slevin without a hitch.

Bruce Willis is also a magnificent part of the cast. His performance combines a little bit of “Die Hard” with a lot of “The Whole Nine Yards” to create someone cool, calm, and capable of killing at any time. Freeman and Kingsley are fitting as the crime bosses, although Freeman does a better job at being menacing. Unfortunately, both characters are at times stiff, as though they don’t enjoy being crime bosses.

Despite the strong male cast, Lucy Liu somehow manages to steal the show. She is the perky next door neighbor all too eager to be a part of Slevin’s unlucky life. Her enthusiasm

brings a whole new facet to the movie, not only adding a love interest for Slevin but also making you laugh harder. I have never seen Liu’s acting better.

The superb acting is crucial, because the movie is designed to be disorienting. We’re never given all the pieces to the plot, and instead constantly wonder what is going on. The sets contributes to this feeling — the hallway walls are patterned with contrasting colors that appear to twist and turn as the camera pans across them. It’s almost as if we’re staring into one of those Magic Eye 3-D pictures when we look at the sets; if we could look closely enough, there might be something there. Somehow, despite this, the film comes out just right.

FILM REVIEW ½

‘Find Me Guilty’ of Being Horrendous

Vin Diesel’s Awful Attempt to be Both Funny and Serious

By Yong-yi Zhu
STAFF WRITER

Find Me Guilty
Directed by Sidney Lumet
Written by Sidney Lumet and T. J. Mancini
Starring Vin Diesel
Rated R
Now Playing

Interested in seeing a grown man waltz into court and throw a temper tantrum? Want to view an immature actor attempting to grow up through his “serious” performance? Planning on throwing ten dollars down the drain? Well, then — “Find Me Guilty” should be the perfect piece of trash for you. This film tries to force Vin Diesel into a role that does not suit him at all, while telling a story that is only mildly interesting.

Based on the true story of an organized crime family’s trial, with twenty men who’ve managed to rack up over seventy charges, the movie focuses on one of the men, Jackie DiNorscio (Diesel). He decides to defend himself instead of hiring a lawyer, turning this serious matter into a farce.

DiNorscio is a good man trapped in a bad environment. Already convicted for a different crime, he was in the midst of serving his thirty-year sentence when this second trial hit. If he confesses, a beneficial deal awaits, but out of loyalty to his family DiNorscio ignores the offer and proceeds with the trial. However, the mob family doesn’t even like him, and sees him as a liability because of his erratic behavior in court. Admittedly, DiNorscio gets himself into quite a sticky situation, and Lumet’s film first depicts this story, and then

A group of high school students could have learned enough acting skills over the course of a weekend to be in this film.

shows how DiNorscio unravels himself from the mess.

The problem is that the movie tries to both be a drama and a comedy, and ends up failing at both. The writers attempt to be funny by having Diesel tell jokes and introducing unbelievable characters, such as a midget lawyer and an equally short-statured sick man. Try as they may, the writers manage to fail in every respect with trying to make this film funny.

With the drama aspect, even though “Find Me Guilty” is based on a true story, the unrealistic characters and choppy plot make it hard for the audience to believe that. A group of high school students could have learned enough acting skills over the course of a weekend to be in this film. The producers should have realized that it is difficult to create twenty different mob personalities on screen. Instead of picking a few, the film tries to showcase all of them.

Diesel’s performance is horrendous. DiNorscio’s manner and mental capacity are as sophisticated as a five-year-old’s, yet he tries to play a man defending himself in a court of law. He simply stands up, rattles off a few jokes, and calls it his defense. His demeanor outside of the courtroom is troublesome too — he childishly wants to gain acceptance into this mob, despite clear signs that they simply do not want him. His immaturity can’t even be masked by the wonderful makeup that is supposed to make Diesel look twenty years older.

Linus Roache, as the district attorney, is the only redeeming factor in the entire film — he portrays an impassioned lawyer dying to win an important case to perfection. Unfortunately, that’s just not enough to save this film from being straight up terrible.

VIDEO GAME REVIEW

The Princess Inquiries

Princess Peach Shows Her Emotional Side in Fun Platformer

By William Andrews
STAFF WRITER

Super Princess Peach
Nintendo DS
Overall: 7 (all scores out of 10)
Graphics: 8
Music/Sound: 6
Controls: 7
Gameplay: 8
Replay Value: 7

It finally happened. Princess Peach Toadstool is the star of her own adventure, a side-scrolling action game for the Nintendo DS system, in the best tradition of the Mario Bros. This time around, Bowser kidnaps the famed plumbers (because it's not the Mushroom Kingdom unless someone gets kidnapped), and it's up to our intrepid heroine, her emotions, and a mysterious fighting parasol to get them back and set things right.

Whatever. You don't play a Mario game for the story — you play it for the fun. However you feel about Mr. Miyamoto and Nintendo in general, they sure can make an entertaining video game, and Super Princess Peach (SPP) doesn't disappoint. It was no problem doing my reviewer's duty and playing the game through to the credits; in fact, it was hard to put down the

controller for the most part. This also means it was pretty easy. Though I don't need much challenge to enjoy a game, for those who do, seek out another one.

Enough generalizations — let's get nitpicky. I'd heard SPP would be partially modeled after Yoshi's Island, that beautiful SNES classic in which Yoshi transports baby Mario to his parents, since the stork was ambushed by Bowser's henchmen (seriously). Even though the two are very similar in overall style and controls, it's sad to realize that Yoshi's Island, from 11 years ago, outshines SPP in both graphics and sound. The latter's graphics were nicely done, but they just weren't as eye-catching and striking as I'd hoped, and the music was also something of a letdown, functioning more as filler than an attraction.

The controls were kind of weird. Granted, there's going to be funky stuff since DS has a touch screen, but it served way more like a gimmick than anything else. Since the game takes place on Vibe Island, where Bowser has a summer home (again, I'm serious), Peach's emotions are magnified. This means that, assuming you have enough emotional energy in your bar, you can make Peach feel Joy, Rage, Sorrow, or Calm. Each state has its own special abilities (Joy makes Peach fly, Rage makes her stomp and catch things on fire, Calm heals Peach, Sor-

row makes her cry, and in order to navigate the various stages of the game and find the elusive Toads you must use these skills/emotions to the max). To choose an emotion you tap the appropriate corner on the touch screen, no easy task. Though I tried to find a comfortable way to use all the necessary buttons while holding the stylus in one hand, I eventually just gave up and used my thumbs to activate SPP's powers.

A bunch of features make it perhaps worthwhile to go through SPP a second time, for example newer tunes and lots of mini-games (which were, of course, also fun). The thing is, once was quite enough for me; I felt no desire to go through the same stages, find the same secret hiding spots (albeit for new secrets). It was fun, but not that fun. Maybe if I'd bought it, I'd be ready in a few months to go do it all again and enjoy myself while I was at it, but not right now.

There has, of course, been a bit of controversy surrounding this game. I mean, Peach Toadstool finally gets her own game (SMB2 and SSBM don't count), and what's her shtick? She uses her emotions to get her way. Now, I'm not here to argue whether it's sexist or just an accurate representation of character or whatever, that's another department. I'm here to tell you it's a fun game with some flaws that you'll most likely enjoy playing. Seriously.



IGN.COM
Princess Peach's tears makes plants grow. She must be Super!

ON THE SCREEN

— BY THE TECH ARTS STAFF —

- ★★★★: Inspired brilliance
- ★★★: Solid filmmaking
- ★★: Mild entertainment
- ★: Embarrassing dreck

★½ **Don't Come Knocking**
Where is Howard? Who is Howard? That's the question this entire film tries to answer. The movie follows Western movie star Howard Spence (Sam Shepard) as he leaves the set of his latest film and runs away to rediscover himself, leaving no way for anyone to

track him. Shepard does an excellent job, and Jessica Lange's companion performance screams for an Oscar nomination — the movie, though, still leaves a lot to be desired. Though enhanced by great music, the film drags on in parts and ultimately lacks cohesion and direction. (Yong-yi Zhu)

★★½ **She's the Man**
Starring Amanda Bynes, this movie is an unimpressive, medium-quality modern adaptation of the Shakespeare comedy "Twelfth

Night." There are two kinds of humor, witty and situational, and "She's the Man" only excels at the latter. It could have been much more than just a teenybopper movie with some awesome Shakespearean references, but that's just not what they wanted for this picture. What a tragic ending for this comedy! (William Andrews)

★★½ **Syriana**
Writer and director Stephen Gaghan, who penned "Traffic," explores the energy crisis

and the war for oil in this new drama. Part of an ensemble cast, Bob Barnes (George Clooney) is a CIA operative in the Middle East who must protect U.S. interests in oil, but he starts to question his government's motives. Though Gaghan presents a convincing, albeit pessimistic world view, he does not provide an artistic vision. Ultimately more enjoyment comes after the final reel, from thinking about the questions the film raises. (Kapil Amarnath)

★★★½ **Tsotsi**
Destruction — of people, lives, and community — is

a fact of life in the ghetto. What sets "Tsotsi" apart as a film about the life of an urban gangster is its message of hope. From the start, viewers experience the slums of Johannesburg, South Africa, through its music, an enthralling innovation on hip-hop. The secondary characters are straightforward and often fall into recognizable types, so the film is rightly named after its most interesting character; his redemption courses through the heart of the film. (Beckett Sterner)

★★ **V for Vendetta**
Three great things about Alan Moore and David Lloyd's graphic novel "V for Vendetta" are that it's a collection of brilliant character studies, it's not like any other dystopian story, and the connection between the two main characters isn't reduced to a cheap and hackneyed infatuation. In their movie adaptation, the Wachowski Brothers changed all that. Natalie Portman's performance is memorable; a masked Hugo Weaving delivers his lines with great success; and as far as cinematography and special effects are concerned, director James McTeigue doesn't disappoint. It's a far more difficult task, however, to tell a good story, and this movie doesn't. (Nivair H. Gabriel)

Compiled by Jacqueline O'Connor and Nivair H. Gabriel

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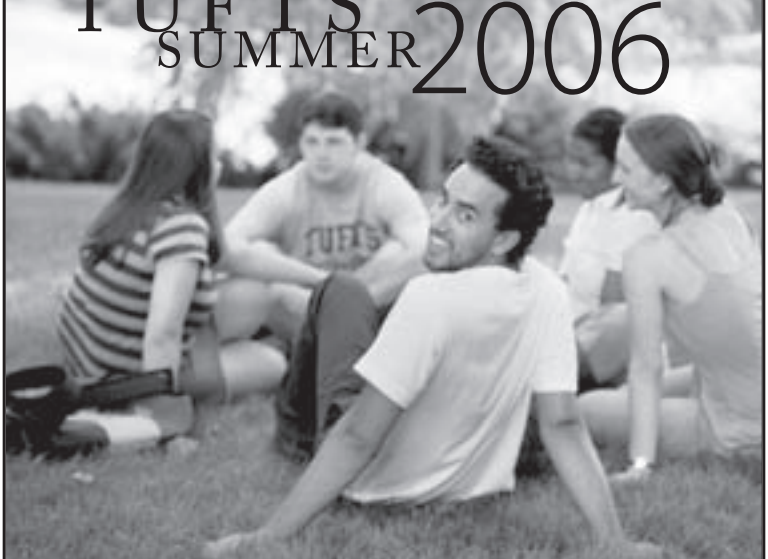
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by Emezie Okorafor



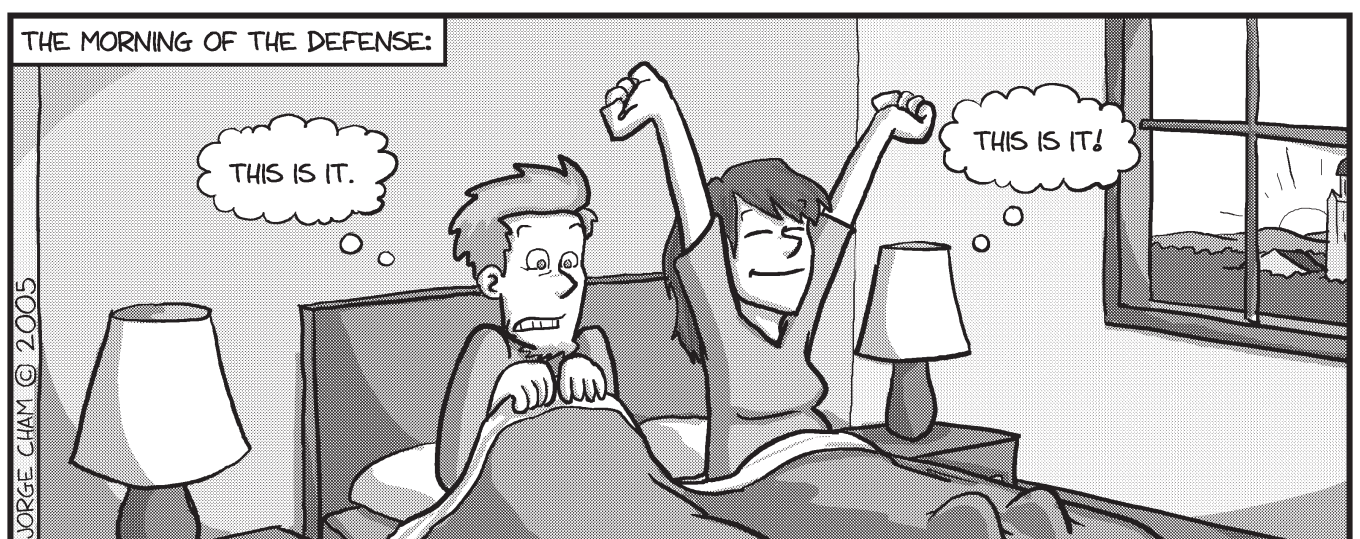
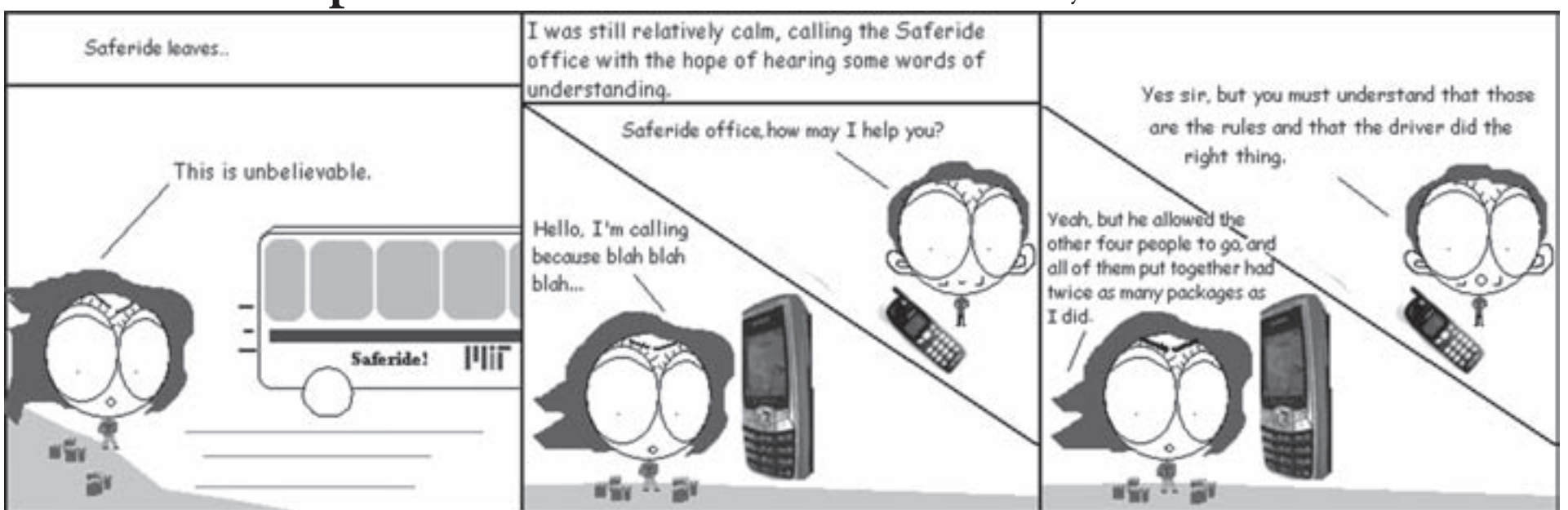
Moons of Uranus

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The International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella held the New England Semifinal competition on Saturday, March 25 in Kresge Auditorium. The event was hosted by MIT Resonance, and eight different a cappella groups from the New England area competed for a spot at the ICCA Finals, to be held April 29 at the Lincoln Center in New York City. The Chorallaries of MIT won the New England semifinal and ended the night with an encore performance of the “Engineers Drinking Song.”

Photography by Ricardo Ramirez.

Left:
The Chorallaries dance along to “New York, New York,” originally performed by Liza Minnelli.

Below:
Christopher M. Yang '08 plays the part of Frank Sinatra, wearing a black fedora during his performance of “New York, New York.”



Above:
Soloist Prathima Nandivada '06 (center) and accompanists YeeKwan Lo '08 (left) and Arushi Dugar '08 (right) from the Chorallaries perform “If I Ain’t Got You” by Alicia Keys.



Right:
Joshua M. Karges '08 of MIT’s Resonance performs “Mr. Brightside,” originally by The Killers, as part of the closing performances.

Campus Preview Weekend Brings a Cappella, Hacks

Caltech Suspected MIT of Hack

Cannon, from Page 1

on March 28, and because the MIT hackers did not leave a note, there was some concern among Caltech students that the disappearance was not a simple prank. As a result, Fleming House, the owner of the cannon, filed a grand theft report, said Thomas N. Mannion, Caltech's assistant vice president for campus life.

Caltech's pranking ethics state that pranks should be accompanied by a note, which often identifies the people responsible for the prank. Todd Gingrich, president of the associated students of the California Institute of Technology, said that he thinks it is fair to require MIT hackers to conform to Caltech's pranking ethics, which he said are more stringent than MIT's hacking ethics. He criticized the MIT hackers for not leaving a note, but also called the hack "reasonably impressive."

Howe said that they would have liked to have left a note, but that given the circumstances on the night of the hack, "we were a little spooked out about returning to the scene." Caltech's student newspaper, *The California Tech*, reported on Monday that on the morning of the cannon's disappearance, Caltech security stopped people towing the cannon, who were prepared with fake work orders.

Even without a note identifying the pranksters, many Caltech students and administrators originally suspected MIT or Harvey Mudd College of taking the cannon. This is partially because Inter-house Committee's Resolutions at Caltech state that the Fleming Cannon cannot be pranked, Jean Sun, ASCIT vice president, wrote in an e-mail.

Pranking the Fleming cannon, Gingrich said, is "something we wish we could do to Fleming but we're not allowed to." He said that some Fleming residents are upset, though the vast majority of

Caltech students think the prank was "well done" and "amusing."

Howe said that the hackers were not aware that the Fleming cannon is considered off-limits for pranks.

Mannion said that the cannon is primarily the concern of Fleming House, and that its alumni, including some of Caltech's trustees, are "very involved at this point" and are interested in responding to the prank.

"Fleming expects to get the cannon back," Gingrich said. The hack "suggests the prospect of a back and forth thing in the future," which is something many Caltech students are excited about, he said.

Harvey Mudd first stole the Fleming cannon from Caltech in 1986. Howe said that Caltech expected Harvey Mudd to steal the cannon this year, and that the hack was the hackers' response to Caltech's pranking CPW last year. Sun wrote in an e-mail that Caltech has been waiting for MIT to respond to its first pranks, and that "every time something ... happens on campus, we think it's you guys pranking us."

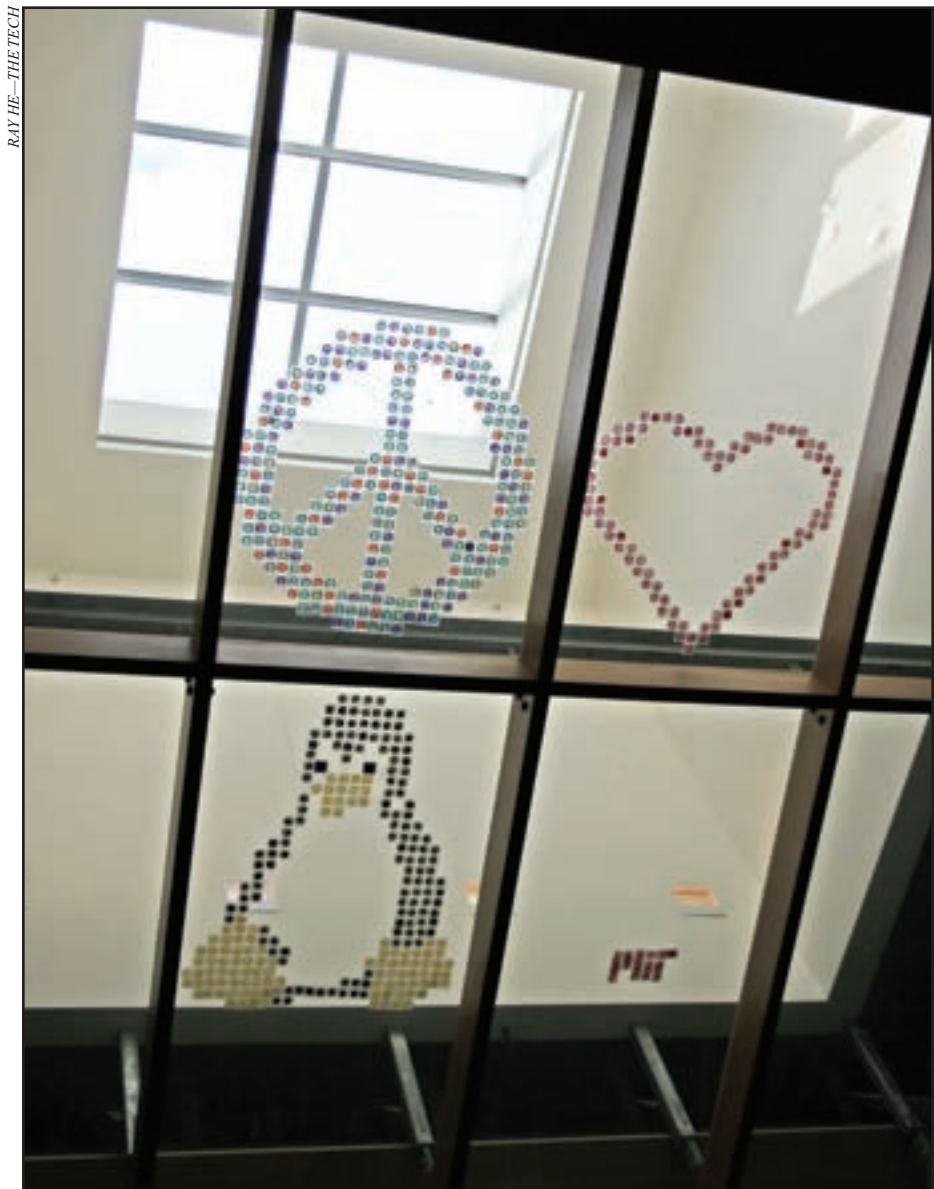
Caltech President and former MIT Institute Professor David Baltimore '61 called the hack an "imaginative response" in an e-mail. Asked in an e-mail what he thought about the growing rivalry between Caltech and MIT, Baltimore responded only with a smiley face: ":)".

Mannion said that the general consensus on the hack among administrators was that "it's good it was MIT because their engineers are almost as good as ours."

As for what the MIT hackers have in store for the cannon's future, Howe said that any action by Howe & Ser would depend on the attitudes of the MIT and Caltech administration. "Let's just wait and see how things unfold around here," said Howe.



The Caltech Fleming Cannon appeared Thursday morning outside the Green building, adorned with an enormous Class of 2006 Brass Rat on the barrel.



Above, top to bottom:
(top) At the CPW Student Welcome, Tyson C. McNulty '08 sings "Sugar We're Going Down," originally by Fall Out Boy, with the MIT Logarithms.
(middle) Prospective students were surprised with a total blackout and rainfall of glowsticks during the Student Welcome in Rockwell Cage. The brief light show followed a serenade for those called onstage because they had upcoming birthdays.
(bottom) A hack made of multi-colored condoms promoting peace, love and Linux graced the skylight in 32-123 for Campus Preview Weekend on Thursday, April 6.

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What is SIPB?
The Student Information Processing Board (SIPB, pronounced sip-bee) is MIT's volunteer student group dedicated to computing. SIPB has, in one form or another, been working on improving computing at MIT since 1969. Today, SIPB contributes to MIT computing by sponsoring interesting projects and providing additional services and expertise to the MIT community. We have an office just outside the Athena cluster in the 5th floor of the Student Center, and you are welcome to come to the office to ask us for help or to hang around and use our computers.

As a prefrish, how can I check my email this weekend?
Though Athena UNIX machines are ubiquitous on campus, they require logins, so you will be unable to use them. There are other computer options, though, assuming you have a web-based e-mail service like gmail. If your host has a computer, you can ask him or her to let you use it. Or, visit us in the SIPB office in W20-557, ask nicely, and check your email here!

What is MIT's computing infrastructure for student use?
Each dorm room contains at least one network drop per student. All dorms also have wireless networking.
In addition, MIT provides network to the Fraternity, Sorority, and Independent Living Group (FSILG) houses. Each FSILG has the power to wire its house as it sees fit. Most, if not all, have at least one network drop per student; some also have wireless networking.
On campus, Athena clusters abound, and students can find computers practically anywhere. Campus buildings all have some level of wireless connectivity.

What is Athena?
Athena is the networked UNIX computing environment developed by MIT. Athena presents a mostly uniform interface to users, independent of whether they are using Linux Athena or Solaris Athena machines.
Athena uses the Kerberos authentication system (designed at MIT), a secure system that saves users the trouble of having to retype their password to access the various Athena services such as email and mailing list administration.
A vast number of programs are available on Athena machines through AFS, the distributed filesystem MIT uses. The advantage of software in AFS is that it allows users and courses to easily make software available to all machines on campus. One of SIPB's roles at MIT is to provide hundreds of useful pieces of software in AFS.

MIT gives students a remarkable amount of freedom in the computing environment. Students can create (and modify) @mit.edu mailing lists and AFS filesystem groups through automated command line or web interfaces (many other schools at best let students control mailing lists of the form @lists.something.edu). Thus, one can easily and quickly create professional-sounding infrastructure for group projects or unofficial student groups. Students are also free to choose an arbitrary available username when they arrive.

If I decide to attend MIT, how do I activate my Athena account?
After you choose to attend, you will receive a hefty welcome package. There will be a coupon with instructions to activate your

Athena account, providing you access to all of MIT's computing services. Keep in mind that you will NOT be able to change your username (email address and login name) after you set up your account, so choose wisely (remember that you will be emailing potential employers from this email account)!

What are the quotas for network file space and mail?
MIT's network file system, AFS, currently provides each user with at least 1 GB of space, accessible from any Athena machine (including the Athena dialups via ssh). The mail quota, a completely separate quota, is currently 500 MB.

Can I run a server at MIT?
Unlike most other colleges, MIT has an open network (not behind a firewall), allowing students to run servers in their rooms. Each student is allowed to have up to four static IP addresses and up to three host names per IP address. Traffic on peer-to-peer file sharing services is allowed, though rate-limited to a fraction of available bandwidth. You should, of course, limit your use of filesharing protocols to legally transferrable files (see the Tech column "Run Over By the RIAA," or infer the details from the title).

To ask us a question, send email to sipb@mit.edu. We'll try to answer quickly, and we might address your question in our next column. You can also stop by our office in W20-557 or call us at x3-7788 if you need help. Copies of each column and pointers to additional information are posted on our Web site: <http://www.mit.edu/~asksipb/>



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apple and say
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April 11th
11-2
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&
Student
Center

...pick up an apple and give it
to your professor!

Solution to Sudoku

from page 9

6	1	3	8	7	2	9	5	4
4	9	2	5	1	6	7	8	3
5	7	8	9	4	3	6	1	2
3	4	6	2	5	7	1	9	8
9	8	5	3	6	1	4	2	7
7	2	1	4	9	8	3	6	5
1	6	4	7	8	5	2	3	9
2	5	7	1	3	9	8	4	6
8	3	9	6	2	4	5	7	1

Solution to Bonus Crossword

from page 9

ERIK	REBID	OPAL
LANA	ARENA	FINE
BYTHEYARD	LIFEIS	
OMENS	GILL	RLS
WON	TAN	CALORIE
ENS	ELECTS	BONE
DDE	FARO	COTES
	HARDBYTHE	
ESSEN	REAR	ERE
LYES	BRAND	SAY
ERASURE	SAN	TIE
GIN	RUE	IDOLS
INCHLIFE	SACINCH	
AGEE	SEGAL	CIAO
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Students Nominated Profs, EECS Admin For Big Screw Prize

Screw, from Page 1

of voting yesterday. Graves wrote in an e-mail that he has “absolutely no idea” why he was nominated. “I’m a mild-mannered nice guy. Possibly I bored someone to death in class, and this is their retaliation,” he wrote.

Graves praised the contest for providing “an opportunity for the students to show their love and/or blow off some steam.”

Professor Haynes R. Miller wrote in an e-mail that he was unsure of why he was nominated. “Someone suggested to me that it might have to do with the fact that I am lecturing in 18.03 this Spring, but, since that course is perfect in every way, it can’t be that,” he wrote.

Miller said that he hopes to win the contest because his office has a good space for displaying the screw.

Graves echoed the sentiment, writing that “I covet the big screw and have the perfect place to display

it in my office.”

Tarasov said that APO is still accepting nominations and trying to get approval to enter the nominees in the contest. He said that APO sends each nominee a “very diplomatic letter” explaining the fundraiser, though some faculty members choose to decline the nomination.

Other nominees include Course VI Administrator Anne M. Hunter, who could not be reached for comment.

Tarasov said that Hunter was nominated because she “represents Course VI,” and that students voting for her will likely do so because they feel they have been screwed over by the department, not necessarily by Hunter. However, he said that there

is probably a “small percentage of students who are angry because she fills their inbox with lots of mail.”

Voting in the contest will continue weekdays through Tuesday, April 11 on the first floor of the Student Center.

“I covet the big screw and have the perfect place to display it in my office.”
— Stephen C. Graves

Big Screw Nominees

Name	Affiliation	Designated Charity	Amount
Kimberly L. Berkowski	5.12 professor	Hospice of Cambridge	\$11.18
Anne M. Hunter	Course VI	Center for New Words	\$30.82
Haynes R. Miller	18.03 professor	Union of Palestinian Relief Committee	\$56.64
John G. Brisson II	2.005, 2.006	J.G. Brisson Sr. Scholarship Fund	\$134.92
Stephen C. Graves	MIT Committee For Community	MIT Community Fund	\$163.00
Total			\$396.56

SOURCE: VLADIMIR S. TARASOV '08, ALPHA PHI OMEGA

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Prefrosh Enjoy CPW, Meeting Classmates

CPW, from Page 1

MIT, and said CPW is “part of my decision process.” The high schooler from Washington State, who had not visited MIT before, said he expected it to be more nerdy. He said he liked the crazy research and fame of MIT. John Parott said the parent’s meeting was well-done.

Maria Prus, Lisa Schlecht, and Diana Audde, who met each other at CPW, were checking out the CPW festival together. Audde, who is from Brazil, said simply of MIT: “it’s great.” Diana called MIT “cool, nerdy, and full of wonderful people.” Schlecht, from Lexington, MA marveled at the diversity. All three said they were enjoying CPW so far and are very likely to attend.

Ben Jones, who manned the registration desk for eleven hours continuously, said “I loved every minute of that” and this is the “best weekend of the year for admis-

sions,” since it is a celebration. He said he was able to meet so many people he had previously only got to know through paper applications. The prospective freshmen he met hailed all the way from Alaska, Egypt, and Zurich, Switzerland. Prospective freshmen must decide whether or not to attend MIT by May 1, he said. Commenting on the nerdiness if the Class of 2010, Jones said, “it’s how you define nerd,” and “everyone here is some type of nerd.”

At the student welcome yesterday evening, Dean for Admissions Marilee Jones said she emphasized that students should want to “do something for the good of civilization.” Attending MIT is not necessarily for everyone, and all “about the match,” she said. Jones signed off on every single application and even overturned some that might have been accepted, and can defend every single admission, she said.

Secretary, Treasurer GSC Slots are Empty

GSC Elections, from Page 1

GSC recently sent an e-mail out to all representatives, and the vast majority of replies expressed approval of the compromise reached. Wu could not be reached for comment.

GSC President Sylvain Bruni said that “close to 35” representatives attended the elections, eight more than required for quorum (one more than half the representatives). In addition, about ten others “mostly GSC alums,” attended. Only GSC representatives who registered before March 1, committee chairs with the exception of editors of the Graduate Student News, and current officers can vote.

Swati Mohan G was nominated from the floor for the position of Secretary, and several others automatically declined. At first, according to Weese and Bruni, she accepted the nomination, but following a question and answer session with the election attendees, she decided to postpone her decision. “Basically I wasn’t expecting it,” Mohan said of the nomination, “and it would be in the best interest for me, and for the GSC, for me to consider the position for more than five minutes.”

Weese said, “There’s no rush for secretary. There’s no urgent secretary work that needs to be done in the next month. However, urgent budgetary work needs to be done,” he said. Sev-

eral people were nominated for treasurer, but all of them declined.

Bruni said that before the meeting he had known “several people who were interested [in the treasurer position] who came to the meeting and didn’t put forth their nominations.” After the election Wednesday evening, Bruni sent out an e-mail to be forwarded to the general graduate student population, calling for interested students to fill the position. Bruni said that a few people have already responded to his e-mail. “So we are not worried about filling the positions,” he said.

When asked if he will continue to be involved in GSC, Bruni joked that he would have to get authorization from his advisor and hinted that the response would be no. He pointed out, though, that he might serve as a GSC representative for the Aeronautics and Astronautics Department, a position Mohan would open up if she is elected Secretary.

Bruni stated that he will “still be around at MIT for some time. I’m not going to disappear.” Bruni was elected vice president in April 2005 and also became president when Emilie F. Slaby resigned from the position at the end of February, citing academic reasons.

Weese said that during the elections Bruni was nominated for President, but he graciously declined.

Apart from Bruni’s nomination, Weese ran uncontested, but he said, “You would have expected if people thought that I was unqualified they would have gone out and found someone else to nominate, which has happened in the past.”



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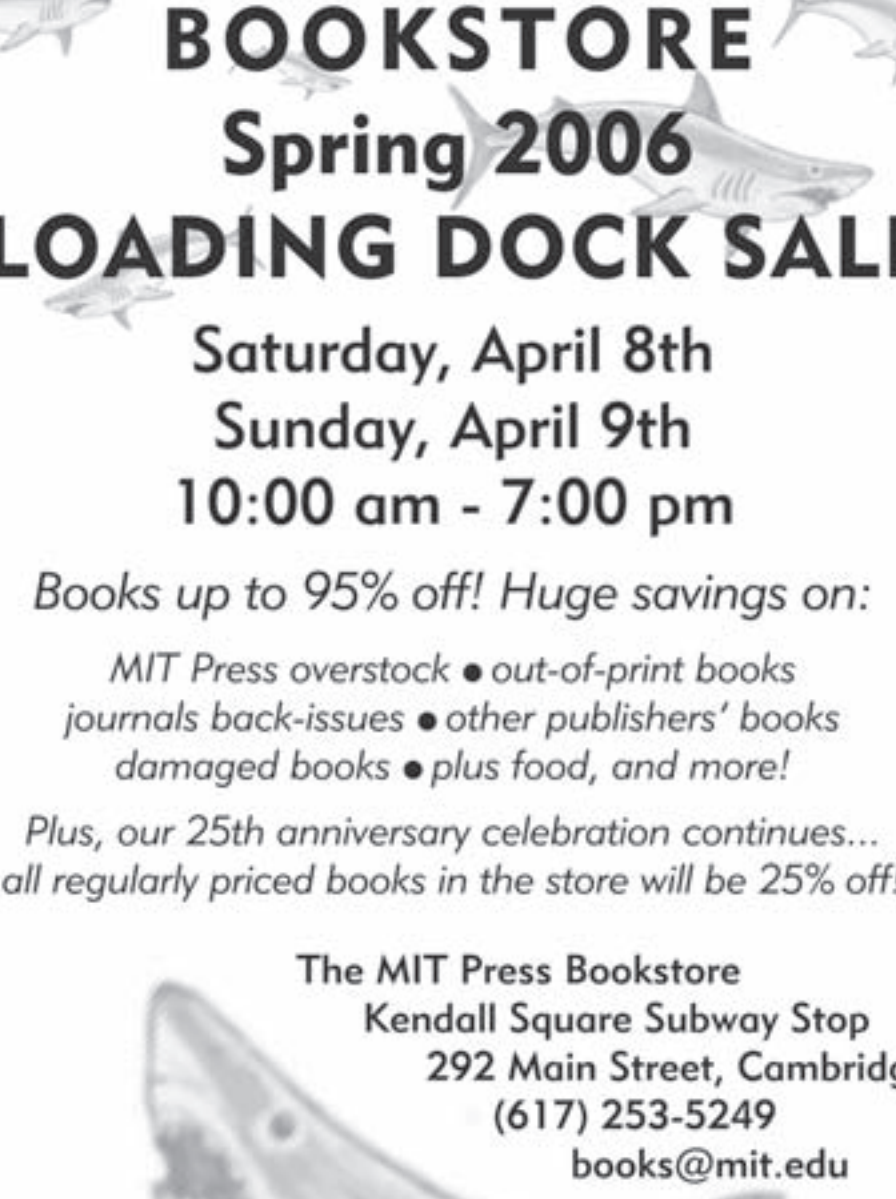
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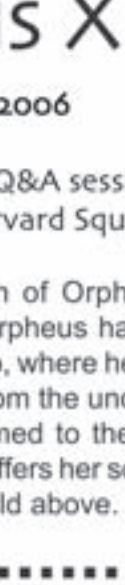
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Investigator Accuses Accountability Office of Coverup

By William J. Broad
THE NEW YORK TIMES

A senior Congressional investigator has accused his agency of covering up a scientific fraud among builders of a \$26 billion system meant to shield the nation from nuclear attack. The disputed weapon is the centerpiece of the Bush administration's antimissile plan, which is expected to cost more than \$250 billion over the next two decades.

The investigator, Subrata Ghoshroy of the Government Accountability Office, led technical analyses of a prototype warhead for the antimissile weapon in an 18-month study, winning awards for his "great care" and "tremendous skill and patience."

Mr. Ghoshroy now says his agency ignored evidence that the two main contractors had doctored data, skewed test results and made false statements in a 2002 report that credited the contractors with revealing the warhead's failings to the government.

The agency strongly denied his accusations, insisting that its antimissile report was impartial and that it was right to exonerate the contractors of a coverup.

The dispute is unusual. Rarely in the 85-year history of the G.A.O., an investigative arm of Congress with a reputation for nonpartisan accuracy, has a dissenter emerged publicly from its ranks.

And Mr. Ghoshroy's assertions raise new questions about the Boeing Company's military arm, the main contractor for the troubled \$26 billion system of interceptor rockets now being installed in Alaska and California. The system's "kill vehicles" are to zoom into space and destroy enemy warheads by force of impact.

But years of test failures have thrown the program into disarray, and the military has recently begun to look for a kill vehicle of greater reliability.

Mr. Ghoshroy, 56, a senior analyst with seven years of service at the accountability office, makes his charges in a recent letter to Representative Howard L. Berman, a California Democrat who, along with Senator Charles E. Grassley, Republican of Iowa, originally requested the G.A.O. study. Mr. Berman's office provided his letter to The New York Times, along with dozens of Mr. Ghoshroy's documents.

After the G.A.O. made its report public in February 2002, Mr. Ghoshroy quietly tried to have his agency reverse itself and grew increasingly frustrated at its denials. He took a sabbatical at Harvard.

John P. Holdren, a Harvard physicist who oversaw his leave as director of the university's program on science, technology and public policy, praised Mr. Ghoshroy as "smart, capable and honest," and added, "I think Subrata's been right to stick to his guns."

Mr. Ghoshroy is now on leave from the accountability office as a research fellow at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

In an interview, David M. Walker, the head of the G.A.O. (formerly known as the General Accounting Office), called the senior analyst "a relatively low-level, disgruntled employee" out of step with his technical peers.

He denied that his agency had produced a biased report and defended the rigor of its investigations. "We don't pull any punches," Mr. Walker said. "It's almost laughable for anybody to say that."

Pentagon planners hail the weapon, known as the ground-based mid-course interceptor, as a hedge against disaster. Skeptics ridicule it as an unworkable defense against a nonexistent threat.

The dispute over its reliability began a decade ago. Nira Schwartz, a senior engineer in 1995 and 1996 at the military contractor TRW, told her superiors that the company had falsified research findings meant to help kill vehicles differentiate incoming warheads from clouds of decoys.

In April 1996, Dr. Schwartz filed

a suit under the False Claims Act, a federal law that allows heavy fines against contractors who lie about their government work. TRW strongly denied her accusations.

She subsequently singled out the prototype kill vehicle's first flight test, in June 1997, arguing that the contractors falsified data from it. The flight cost \$100 million.

TRW was a Boeing subcontractor. Boeing, in turn, was competing against other companies to build the overall kill vehicle. Both denied any impropriety.

In 2000, Senator Grassley and Representative Berman asked the G.A.O. to examine Dr. Schwartz's charges.

Mr. Ghoshroy became the main technical analyst. Born in India, he earned a master's degree in electrical engineering at Northeastern University in 1973. He worked at Princeton, for military contractors and for the House National Security Committee in Washington before joining the accountability office in 1998 as a senior defense analyst.

Almost immediately, Mr. Ghoshroy recalled, the G.A.O. team found signs of a coverup — for instance, disturbing charts buried at the back of an upbeat report.

The stakes rose in January 2001 as George W. Bush took office, having pledged to deploy antimissile arms "at the earliest possible date."

On April 12, a G.A.O. manager wrote a draft summary of the team's findings. It strongly backed Dr. Schwartz, saying the contractors had "excluded some data and modified statistical techniques."

The summary added that failures of the kill vehicle during its test flight made most of the collected data unusable. It also questioned whether the test showed that "the Boeing sensor could distinguish a warhead from decoys."

Around this time, the G.A.O. team was directed to switch its focus from looking for fraud to searching for contractor admissions of failure. While it found written reports that disclosed some flight-test problems before Dr. Schwartz revealed them to federal investigators, it was unable to document them all.

Finally, the team learned of a meeting in late August 1997 at which contractor personnel had reportedly made complete oral disclosures. But no contractor or federal official could recall anything specific about this meeting — no date, place, agenda or list of attendees.

Mr. Ghoshroy came to believe that the meeting had never happened, he said. Even so, the G.A.O. report incorporated its claims. The report also noted the explanations that the contractors gave for excluding some experimental data.

From 2000 to 2002, Subrata Ghoshroy served as technical advisor to two Government Accountability Office reports into allegations of fraud in the military's missile defense system — allegations levied by a former engineer at the military contractor TRW, Nira Schwartz, and by an MIT professor, Theodore A. Postol '67.

Last week, Ghoshroy, who now works with Postol as a research associate, publicly criticized the reports, saying GAO managers forced them to favor the military and its contractors in the face of compelling evidence of fraud.

In part of a scathing 41-page letter, Ghoshroy says that MIT should not have participated in a 1999 "independent review" of Schwartz's allegations because the MIT Lincoln Laboratory, which led the investigation, had a conflict of interest.

That 1999 Lincoln Lab review, known as the POET report, is what Postol has asserted is fraudulent. After a three-year delay, MIT announced last month that it would call off its own investigation into Postol's allegations and that a senior Air Force scientist would conduct his own investigation.

Here is an excerpt from Ghoshroy's letter, which is available in full at http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/ca28_berman/GAO.html.

—Keith Winstein

"I also found evidence of what I believed to be a serious conflict of interest for the MIT Lincoln Laboratory, which led the POET panel. It was contained in a letter from TRW to the Department of Justice. TRW stated that its discrimination software, which was central to the allegations made by Dr. Schwartz, was actually based on concepts developed through many years of government-funded research by MIT Lincoln Laboratory, among others. We were told by Lincoln Laboratory that it was similarly helping Raytheon — the current EKV contractor.

"I believe TRW was developing its specific discrimination software called the Baseline Algorithm or BLA building on these concepts. It seems that they wanted to respond to Dr. Schwartz's allegation that TRW's software did not work by putting in a disclaimer that the software was not TRW's original and that renowned organizations like the Lincoln Laboratory have been advocating such algorithmic approaches for a long time.

"In my opinion, it posed a serious conflict of interest for the POET. I pointed out that the POET team, which was led by Dr. Ming Tsai of the Lincoln Laboratory, could not make an objective evaluation of the software in question since the Lincoln Laboratory had actually helped develop and advocate the mathematical principles and algorithms underlying the TRW software.

"It called into question the independence and objectivity of the POET report, which was instrumental in the Department of Justice's decision not to intervene in Dr. Schwartz's lawsuit under the False Claims Act."

After the report was made public, Mr. Ghoshroy in private called for an independent investigation of its integrity. The G.A.O. conducted three internal inquiries, each absolving itself of any wrongdoing.

In an interview and written responses to questions, Mr. Walker of the accountability office said part of the controversy grew from a "communication breakdown" with Mr. Berman's office over the report's scope. His agency, he said, has a policy of addressing no issue that could affect litigation, but had failed to tell Mr. Berman that.

Mr. Walker emphasized that the strong consensus at the G.A.O. was against Mr. Ghoshroy. The communication breakdown, he said, "doesn't mean the report is wrong."

And he defended the report's use of the disputed oral disclosures, saying it relied "more heavily" on written admissions. Mr. Ghoshroy said the office's dependence on such evidence was highly unusual.

The contractors never presented the exonerating G.A.O. study in court. In early 2003, a federal judge threw out Dr. Schwartz's suit after deciding that going ahead would release military secrets that could hurt national security.

Today, the military calls the dispute irrelevant to national defense because the Boeing kill vehicle was rejected in favor of one made by Raytheon. The Raytheon model now tips the nation's antimissile interceptors.

But Mr. Ghoshroy says the issue matters greatly. Boeing may have

lost the kill vehicle competition, but it won a bigger contest as the Pentagon in 1998 named it lead contractor for the whole antimissile project. Charges of corporate dishonesty, he said, threaten to undermine the program's overall credibility.

Boeing declined to comment on the dispute. A spokeswoman, Maria McCullough, said company policy was to not comment on reports it had not seen.

Meanwhile, the military has quietly

begun looking for a better interception method. One alternative under study is a shotgun approach that would try to destroy all enemy targets in space, whether warheads or decoys.

For his part, Mr. Ghoshroy said he found it "totally amazing" that the G.A.O. refused to admit that its report misinformed Congress and the public. "I'm concerned," he said, "that there's no one out there to oversee the overseer."



STEPHANIE LEE—THE TECH

Comments were posted on the automatic doors to Lobby 7 because they became available for use shortly before prospective students were expected on campus. The sign was posted in response to the "Conserve Energy" signs displayed on the doors for several months prior to CPW, the reason given to students for why automatic doors had not been available for use.

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Men's Vball Finishes With #11 Nat'l Rank

Volleyball, from Page 20

nement's final four teams.

A balanced scoring attack helped power MIT — Pamidimukkala totaled 11 kills while Dean, Pollom, Alexander L. Borschow '06, and Raimondi each contributed seven. Matthew Ng '08 anchored the defense with 12 digs as Pamidimukkala and Wan both tallied seven. Wan also distributed 37 assists in the win.

The Semifinals saw MIT's historical postseason run come to an end as the team fell to #8 seed and #13 nationally ranked Eastern Mennonite University 0-3 (30-17, 30-25, 31-29). Pollom paced the Engineers with 15

kills and three assisted blocks. Pamidimukkala added 14 kills while Dean accounted for all three of Tech's aces. Jason S. Park G notched a team-high 6 digs as Wan dished out 41 assists.

MIT's 2-1 record in the tournament marked its best showing in its six trips to post-season play. The team ended the season with a 23-9 record and a #11 national ranking, the best finish in program history. Both Wan and Pamidimukkala earned All-Tournament Team and All-Division first team honors. Pamidimukkala also was named a Division III All-American by the American Volleyball Coaches Association, a first for an MIT player.

Track Takes Individual Second, 9th in 5000m

Track and Field, from Page 20

five. Adrienne M. Bolger '09, Hana L. Adaniya '07, and Betsy R. Eames '06 took second, fourth, and fifth respectively.

Later in the week, MIT traveled to the University of Florida to compete in the Diet Pepsi Invitational, a non-scoring meet against primarily Division I teams, as well as professional athletes. In the face of an increased level of competition, both the men and women stepped up their performances, with many athletes setting personal records.

Uzoma A. Orji, '06, who won the Division III national championship this past indoor season in the shotput, threw national qualifying marks in both the hammer (187 feet, 7 inches) and the shot put (57 feet, 11.75 inches). Orji's shot put was strong enough to earn him third place in that event. Also in the throwing ring, James R. Oleinik, '09 set personal records in the hammer (129-8) and discus (121-1).

The highest individual places for both the men and women were recorded in the distance events. Eric A. Khatchadourian, '06 took second in the 5000 meters in 15:35.06, while Alisha R. Schor, '07, placed ninth with a personal best of 19:04.71 for

the same distance.

The MIT women showed a strong team effort as well, recording 12 qualifying marks for the New England Division III championship between the two meets. Bolger, who was the women's lone point scorer at the All-New England championship during the indoor season, qualified in the 1500 meter (4:56.18) and the 800 meter (2:23.15) events.

"Speaking on the women's team, with continued hard work and proper physical and mental preparation, we should contend for the NEWMAC title and be a top 10 team at the New England Division III Championships," Women's Head Coach Fletcher Brooks said.

Both teams are hoping to translate Spring Break success back to New England, where the men have won five consecutive NEWMAC championships, and the women were second last season, 14.5 points away from overthrowing the perennially dominant Wheaton College.

On Saturday the track and field teams will travel to Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) for the annual Engineer's Cup between MIT, WPI and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Both teams came away as victors in this meet last year.

Women's Gymnastics Sets New MIT Highs at NCGA

Gymnastics, from Page 20

9.425. The team waited for senior DeMeo to hit the routine that had given her trouble all season, and, to their satisfaction and her elation, she hit for a 9.50 and earned the privilege of competing again at Event Finals. On beam MIT scored a season best 46.35 for the fifth place overall finish.

Individually, Harrison and Zimmerman finished in the top 10 in the All-Around competition, earning All-American status for fifth and eighth place respectively. Harrison's finish marked MIT's highest in the All-Around since Sonja J. Ellefson '01 finished fourth in 1999.

Also for the first time in school history, MIT qualified four different competitors to the Individual Event Finals held on the second

day of competition. The top fourteen performers from Friday competed Saturday for individual totals to determine the national champions as well as All-Americans (only the top 6 for each apparatus). MIT had a representative in each event, with Zimmerman qualifying on vault and floor exercise, Harrison on uneven bars and balance beam, and DeMeo and Trowbridge on balance beam.

In the individual vault competition Julia Zimmerman scored a 9.00 to finish 14th overall. Sophia Harrison hit her bar routine for a silver medal and a tie for a best ever finish for an MIT gymnast on bars, garnering her second individual All-American Award.



Zimmerman would have another great floor routine, which got the highest score on the second day and brought her to a bronze medal and another All-American Award. In doing so, she tied MIT's best ever finish on a national floor competition and set a new Institute combined mark of 19.325.

On beam, Trowbridge stayed on for 10th place. DeMeo finished 12th and Harrison 14th.

The last awards of the weekend went to the All-Academic Team of seniors who maintained a 3.0 or better GPA throughout their careers. For the 11th year in a row, MIT's was perfect in this respect, with Sauchuk and DeMeo receiving this year's honors.

Solution to Crossword
from page 9

S	N	U	F	F		B	O	F	F	O		B	I	N	
O	N	A	I	R		A	L	O	O	F		A	D	E	
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SPORTS

Outdoor Track & Field Season Kicks Off With Two Meets in Florida

By Alisha Shor
TEAM MEMBER

The Men's and Women's Track and Field teams spent spring break in central Florida, participating in the Spring Fling meet and Diet Pepsi Invitational in preparation for the upcoming outdoor season. The men placed first and the women second in the Spring Fling event, while the Diet Pepsi Invitational was not scored.

The Spring Fling meet, a mid-week competition at the National Training Center in Clermont, FL, produced a number of outstanding performances. Despite the distant location, the Spring Fling meet featured mostly local Division 3 rivals. The men soundly defeated Colby 209-120, taking victories in all running events except the 400 hurdles, in which they had no entrants.

The Women's team placed second, with four event winners con-

tributing to the team's 178 points, behind Colby's 186 but ahead of the University of Southern Maine's 156.

Part of the men's victory was a strong middle distance contingent, including Alex G. Rothberg '09 and Ulzie L. Rea, '07 who took first (51.17) and second (51.57) in the 400 meter dash, as well as David N. Reshef '08, who won the 800 meter run (2:01.74).

"I am continually impressed with Dave Reshef. He has come a long way since last year. Ulzie was a nice surprise in the 400, as was Alex Rothberg," said Men's Head Coach Halston W. Taylor afterwards.

The women brought fewer athletes to Florida than the men, competing only 14 in the Spring Fling meet. Despite the small roster, MIT had an impressive showing in the women's 1500 meter run, with all three entrants placing in the top

Track and Field, Page 19

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Saturday, April 8, 2006	
Varsity Softball vs. Coast Guard, doubleheader	12 p.m., Briggs Field
Varsity Men's Lacrosse vs. Maine Maritime	1 p.m., Steinbrenner Stadium
Varsity Men's Tennis vs. Babson	1 p.m., du Pont Tennis Courts
Monday, April 10, 2006	
Varsity Softball vs. Lesley	4 p.m., Briggs Field

Men's Vball Wins Pair of NECVA Tourney Matches, Makes Semis

By Paul Dill
HEAD COACH

The MIT Men's Volleyball team advanced to the semifinals of the NECVA Championship Tournament last weekend, beating higher seeded Medialle and SUNY New Paltz before falling to Eastern Mennonite.

After earning a post season bid in 2005, the team lost in the first round. This time around they had hopes of not only making it to the post season, but also getting further in the tournament. Going in as the 13th seed in the 16 team field, the Engineers had to face #4 seed and #10 nationally ranked Medaille College in the first round on Friday.

The first game saw MIT take control early and build a 28-22 lead before letting the game slip through their fingers 35-37. The Engineers regrouped and maintained their poise and confidence, winning the next three games 30-27, 30-24, 30-27 for the upset.

With 25 kills, Praveen Pamidimukala '08 set a single-season Institute record in kills (506) as he eclipsed the previous mark of 488, which was established last year by Robert M. McAndrew '05.

T. Scott Pollom '09 dominated the front row with 15 kills and nine total blocks while Michelangelo A. Raimondi '06 contributed 12 kills, four assisted blocks, and MIT's lone ace. Ryan G. Dean '08 had a strong defensive outing as he collected a team-

high 16 digs and three assisted blocks. Jordan X. Wan '06 posted a double-double with 52 assists and 12 digs.

This win was the first for the Engineers in the NECVA Tournament and only the second postseason win ever for the program. Tech's other post-season victory was a 3-0 sweep over Eastern Mennonite University in the 1993 EIVA Division III Playoffs.

In Saturday's quarterfinals, MIT played #5 seed and #13 nationally ranked SUNY New Paltz, who had beaten the injury depleted Engineers earlier in the season 3-2. This time, with a healthy squad, the Engineers swept New Paltz 3-0 (30-24, 30-24, 30-18) to book their place in the tour-

Volleyball, Page 19

Women's Gymnastics Fifth at NCGA, Best Finish Ever at National Tourney

By Jennifer Miller-McEachern
HEAD COACH

At the beginning of Spring Break, as others relaxed, the MIT Women's Gymnastics Team placed fifth at their first National Championship competition since 1997, in their best finish ever.

The team started the competition with the floor event. Lara L. Hershcovitch '07 (8.90), Sarah N. Trowbridge '08 (9.425), team captains Francesca E. DeMeo '06 (9.475) and Jennifer E. Sauchuk '06 (9.425), and Julia C. Zimmerman '09 combined for a

score of 47.075, with Zimmerman performing one of her best floor routines this season for a remarkable 9.675. MIT placed third out of eight teams, and despite one fall, set a new team season high with a score of 47.075.

Moving on to vault, Laura E. Kelly '09 did a nice tuck tsuk (8.90), and Sauchuk a solid front handspring front consistent with what she had done all year (9.025). Trowbridge did a great pike tsuk (9.125), and Alison M. Barnard '06 then threw her best front hand-spring in competition, but only scored an 8.85 because of a landing error. Zimmerman was solid with a

9.475 and Sophia L. Harrison '08 performed her usual Yurchenko layout for a 9.350, making the team's vault total 45.875.

Barnard was first on the bars (8.275), and Sauchuk followed with the best routine of her career (8.625). Sophia Harrison swung an amazing routine, and was rewarded with a 9.45.

On the beam for their final rotation, the team kept its confidence and performed well. Always steady, Hershcovitch hit for an 8.65, Trowbridge went big with a 9.400 and Sophia L. Harrison '08 scored a


Gymnastics, Page 19

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DAVID TEMPLETON—THE TECH

Pitcher Leah A. Bogsted '08 winds up for a pitch during the softball team's double-header against Wheaton College on Briggs Field on Thursday, April 6. The Engineers lost both games, 1-2 and 1-3.

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